



HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

(TRANSFORMED - SPIRITUAL HEALTH - LUKE 15:11-24)

The way you **think** determines the way you **feel** and the way you feel determines the way you **act**. Understanding the cause-and-effect in that sequence chain is key to experiencing real **transformation** in your life. Here's the way it works: If you want to change something that you don't like about yourself, you do not start with your actions. You do not start with your feelings. Rather, you specifically start with your thinking. In **Romans 12:2** we're told to *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*. Transformation begins when our mind, which is our thinking, is renewed. And the first place in life to renew our thinking has to do with our **spiritual health**. Why start there? Because the further away from God you get, the more trouble you're going to have in life. Conversely, the closer you get to God, the more your life is going to be transformed. You see, transformation in our physical, mental, emotional, relational, financial and vocational (retirement included) health can only happen as we prioritize spiritual transformation. Stating it simply: If I'm not close to God, then I won't have the power to make all the other transformations. The closer I am to God the more I will be transformed in all areas of my life. Today we're going to discover how to get close to God, how to stay close to God, and if you've fallen away from God, how to come back close in relationship with God. Fortunately, in **Luke 15:11-24**, Jesus told the most beautiful story about nearness to God. It's called the story of **The Prodigal Son**. A better title might very well be the story of **The Loving Father**.

TO BE SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMED I NEED TO ...

1. (vv. 13-17)

2. (vv. 17-18)

3. (vv. 19-22)

4. (vv. 22-24)